

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/698,187

Examiner

Thanh-Tam T. Le

Applicant(s)

ADAMS ET AL.

Art Unit

2839

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to a telephone interview on 10/17/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-12,23,24,26-31 and 36-47.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


THANH-TAM LE
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Gregory J. Burke (Reg. No. 38,399) on 10/17/06.

3. The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1, line 15, "." has been changed --;--.

New lines have been inserted after line 15 as follow:

--wherein a full insertion of said compatible plug into said receptacle results in an overlapping contact between said electrical contact and said blade of said compatible plug, said overlapping contact having a length, and wherein the receptacle formation of said mating formation pair comprises a projection extending from said receptacle to a height that is greater than the length of said overlapping contact thereby preventing insertion of the general-use plug that lacks said corresponding plug formation by an amount sufficient to establish said electrical connection with said receptacle.--

Claim 23, line 18, "." has been changed --; and--.

New lines have been inserted after line 18 as follow:

--wherein a full insertion of said compatible plug into said second receptacle results in an overlapping contact between the electrical contact of said compatible plug and the electrical contact of said second receptacle, said overlapping contact having a

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length, and wherein the receptacle formation of said mating formation pair is defined by a projection on said second receptacle.--

Claim 36, line 20, "." has been changed --; and--.

New lines have been inserted after line 20 as follow:

--wherein a full insertion of said compatible plug into said receptacle results in an overlapping contact between said electrical contact and said blade of said compatible plug, said overlapping contact having a length, and wherein the receptacle formation of said mating formation pair comprises a projection extending from said receptacle to a height that is greater than the length of said overlapping contact thereby preventing insertion of the general-use plug that lacks said corresponding plug formation by an amount sufficient to establish said electrical connection with said receptacle.--

Claim 38, line 14, "." has been changed --;--.

New lines have been inserted after line 14 as follow:

--wherein a full insertion of said compatible plug into said receptacle results in an overlapping contact between said electrical contact and said blade of said compatible plug, said overlapping contact having a length, and wherein the receptacle formation of said mating formation pair comprises a projection extending from said receptacle to a height that is greater than the length of said overlapping contact thereby preventing insertion of the non-compatible plug that lacks said corresponding plug formation by an amount sufficient to establish said electrical connection with said receptacle.--

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Claim 39, line 19, "." has been changed --; and--.

New lines have been inserted after line 19 as follow:

--wherein a full insertion of said compatible plug into said receptacle results in an overlapping contact between said electrical contact and said blade of said compatible plug, said overlapping contact having a length, and wherein the receptacle formation of said mating formation pair comprises a projection extending from said receptacle to a height that is greater than the length of said overlapping contact thereby preventing insertion of the general-use plug that lacks said corresponding plug formation by an amount sufficient to establish said electrical connection with said receptacle.--

Claims 2 and 25 have been canceled.

Claim 3, line 1, "2" has been changed --1--;

Claim 26, line 1, "25" has been changed --23--;

Claim 42, line 2, "a projection" has been changed --the projection--;

Claim 43, line 2, "a projection" has been changed --the projection--;

Claim 45, line 2, "a projection" has been changed --the projection--;

Claim 46, line 2, "a projection" has been changed --the projection--;

Claim 47, line 2, "a projection" has been changed --the projection--;

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1, 3-12, 23-24, 26-31 and 36-47 are allowed.
5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The claims are allowable over the prior art of record for at least the reason that the prior art fails to teach or suggest a full insertion of said compatible plug into said receptacle results in an overlapping contact between said electrical contact and said blade of said compatible plug, said overlapping contact having a length, and wherein the receptacle formation of said mating formation pair comprises a projection extending from said receptacle to a height that is greater than the length of said overlapping contact, as set forth in the claimed combination.

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanh-Tam T. Le whose telephone number is 571-272-2094. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00.



Thanh-Tam T. Le
Primary Examiner
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